Vermont Mental Health Performance Indicator Project

Agency of Human Services, Department of Health, Division of Mental Health
Weeks Building, 103 South Main Street, Waterbury, VT 05671-1601

MEMORANDUM

TO: Vermont Mental Health Performance Indicator Project
             Advisory Group and Interested Parties

FROM: John Pandiani and Monica Simon

DATE: August 20, 2004

RE: Arrests and Incarceration Before and After Substance Abuse Treatment Services

This is the third in our series of brief reports regarding change in criminal justice involvement for recipients of community based services in Vermont. The first report focused on adults served by Adult Outpatient Programs (AOP) for individuals who are experiencing emotional, behavioral, or adjustment problems[1].   The second report focused on adults served by Community Rehabilitation and Treatment (CRT) programs for individuals with severe and persistent mental illness[2].   The current report focuses on adults served by Substance Abuse programs at community mental health centers in Vermont. As in the previous reports, the current report examines rates of criminal justice involvement during the year before a treatment year and rates of criminal justice involvement during the year after a treatment year. This analysis was conducted for three treatment years (FY1999, FY2000, and FY2001), and the results were averaged.

Two pages are attached. The first page includes a graph and a table that compares arrest rates for the years before and after each of the three years in which Substance Abuse services were received. The second page includes a similar graph and table that compares incarceration rates for the years before and after each of the three years in which Substance Abuse services were received. Both of these analyses involve measuring the amount of overlap between a data set that includes basic demographic information about recipients of Substance Abuse services and two criminal justice data sets. The Substance Abuse data were provided by designated community mental health agencies. The arrest data were provided by the Vermont Department of Public Safety. The incarceration data were provided by the Vermont Department of Corrections.   Because the mental health and criminal justice data sets used in this analysis do not share unique person identifiers, Probabilistic Population Estimation was used to determine the number of people who appeared in both the mental health database and each of the two criminal justice databases.

As you will see, there was a significant decline in arrest rates during the study period. The post-treatment arrest rate was less than two-thirds that of the pre-treatment arrest rate overall and there were significant reductions in arrest rates for nearly every age and gender category. As we had found for the AOP service recipients, there was much less change in incarceration rates than there was in arrest rates. Nevertheless, substance abuse service recipients in both the 35-

49 and 50-64 age groups experienced a significant reduction in incarceration rates during the study period. This reduction was statistically significant for both men and women in the 50-64 age group, but was only significant for men in the 35-49 age group.

We look forward to your suggestions for further analysis of these data, your comments and your questions to pip@vdh.state.vt.us or 802-241-2638.

----

[1] Arrest and Incarceration Before and After Adult Mental Health Outpatient Services (July 23, 2004) (www.ddmhs.state.vt.us/docs/pips/2004/pip072304.pdf).
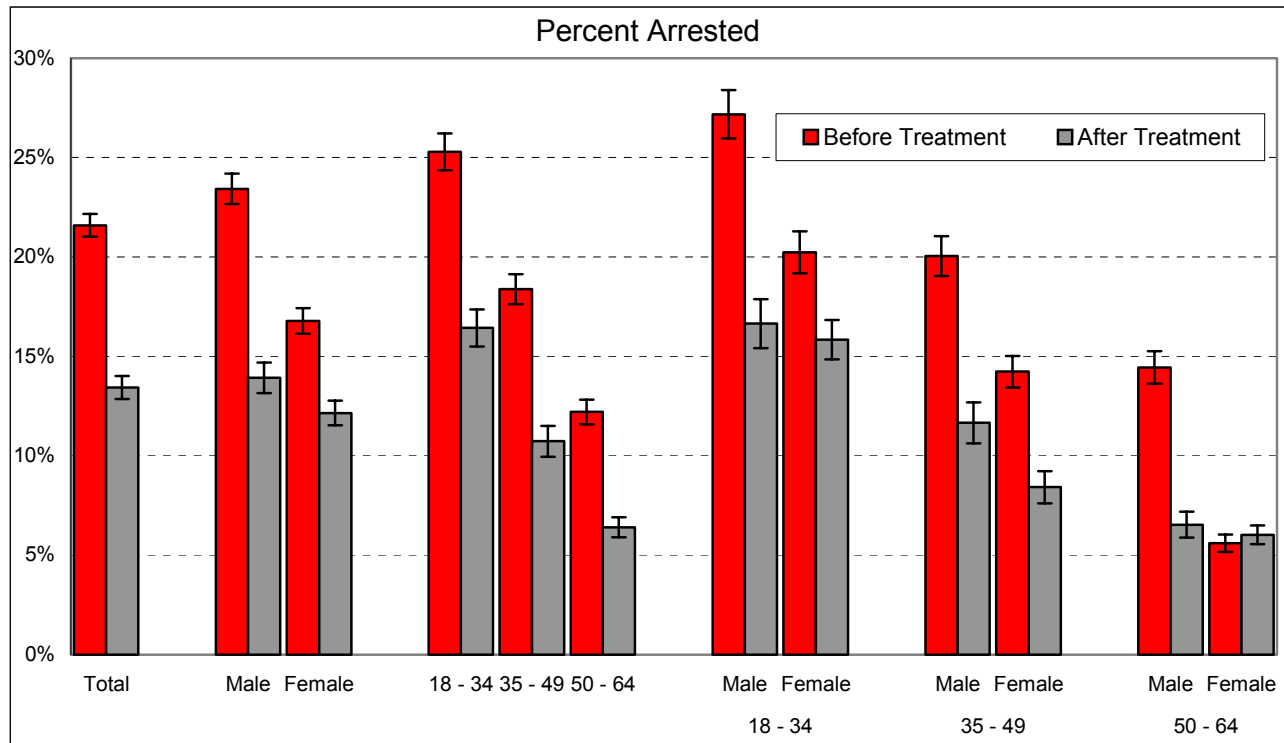
[2] Arrest and Incarceration Before and After CRT Services (August 6, 2004) (www.ddmhs.state.vt.us/docs/pips/2004/pip080604.pdf).

Arrests
Substance Abuse Clients
Before and After Treatment
By Age and Gender, Vermont: FY1999 - FY2001

Percent Arrested — Before Treatment / After Treatment

	Average Number Served	Arrested				Change in Arrest Rate
		Before Treatment		After Treatment		
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Total	3,944 ± 10	852 ± 23	21.6% ± 0.6%	530 ± 23	13.4% ± 0.6%	0.62 ± 0.03 *
Male	2,853 ± 10	669 ± 22	23.4% ± 0.8%	397 ± 22	13.9% ± 0.8%	0.59 ± 0.04 *
Female	1,091 ± 4	183 ± 7	16.8% ± 0.6%	133 ± 7	12.2% ± 0.6%	0.72 ± 0.05 *
18 - 34	2,106 ± 8	532 ± 19	25.3% ± 0.9%	346 ± 20	16.4% ± 0.9%	0.65 ± 0.04 *
35 - 49	1,534 ± 6	282 ± 11	18.4% ± 0.8%	165 ± 12	10.7% ± 0.8%	0.58 ± 0.05 *
50 - 64	304 ± 2	37 ± 2	12.2% ± 0.6%	19 ± 2	6.4% ± 0.5%	0.52 ± 0.05 *
18 - 34 Male	1,532 ± 7	416 ± 18	27.2% ± 1.2%	255 ± 19	16.6% ± 1.2%	0.61 ± 0.05 *
Female	573 ± 3	116 ± 6	20.2% ± 1.1%	91 ± 6	15.8% ± 1.0%	0.78 ± 0.06 *
35 - 49 Male	1,094 ± 6	219 ± 11	20.0% ± 1.0%	128 ± 11	11.7% ± 1.0%	0.58 ± 0.06 *
Female	440 ± 2	63 ± 3	14.2% ± 0.8%	37 ± 4	8.4% ± 0.8%	0.59 ± 0.07 *
50 - 64 Male	227 ± 1	33 ± 2	14.4% ± 0.8%	15 ± 1	6.5% ± 0.7%	0.45 ± 0.05 *
Female	77 ± 1	4 ± 0	5.6% ± 0.4%	5 ± 0	6.0% ± 0.5%	1.08 ± 0.12

*Indicates difference is statistically significantly different at the 0.05 level of significance.
Analysis is based on data provided to DDMHS by community mental health centers and the Department of Public Safety.
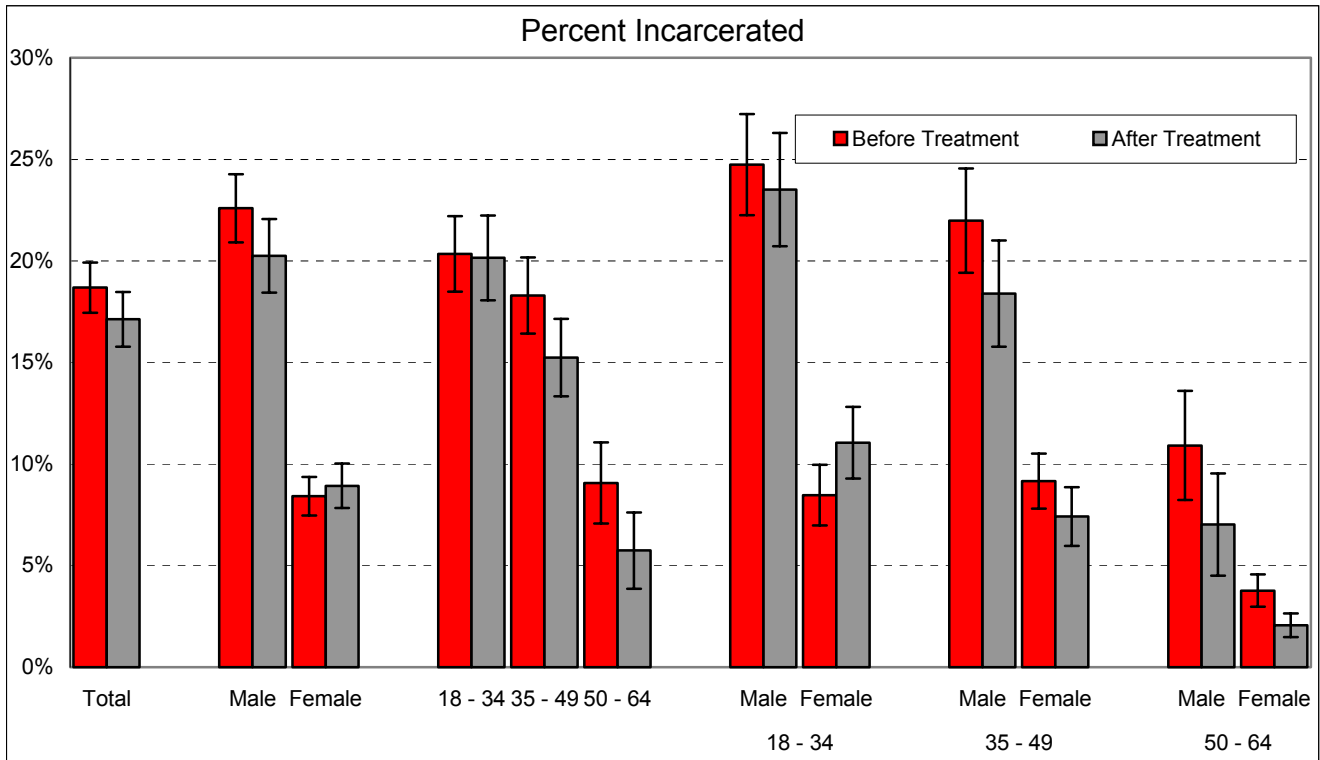Because these databases do not share unique person identifiers, Probabilistic Population Estimation was used to determine the number of individuals shared across data sets (with 95% confidence intervals).

Incarceration
Substance Abuse Clients
Before and After Treatment
By Age and Gender, Vermont: Average FY 1999 - 2001

	Average Number Served	Incarcerated				Change in Incarceration Rate
		Before Treatment		After Treatment		
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Total	3,853 ± 23	720 ± 48	18.7% ± 1.2%	660 ± 52	17.1% ± 1.3%	0.92 ± 0.09
Male	2,790 ± 21	630 ± 47	22.6% ± 1.7%	565 ± 50	20.3% ± 1.8%	0.90 ± 0.10
Female	1,063 ± 8	89 ± 10	8.4% ± 1.0%	95 ± 12	8.9% ± 1.1%	1.06 ± 0.18
18 - 34	2,054 ± 18	418 ± 38	20.3% ± 1.9%	414 ± 43	20.2% ± 2.1%	0.99 ± 0.14
35 - 49	1,503 ± 14	275 ± 28	18.3% ± 1.9%	229 ± 29	15.2% ± 1.9%	0.83 ± 0.13 *
50 - 64	295 ± 3	27 ± 6	9.1% ± 2.0%	17 ± 6	5.7% ± 1.9%	0.63 ± 0.25 *
18 - 34 Male	1,500 ± 17	371 ± 37	24.7% ± 2.5%	353 ± 42	23.5% ± 2.8%	0.95 ± 0.15
Female	554 ± 6	47 ± 8	8.5% ± 1.5%	61 ± 10	11.1% ± 1.8%	1.30 ± 0.31
35 - 49 Male	1,071 ± 13	236 ± 27	22.0% ± 2.6%	197 ± 28	18.4% ± 2.6%	0.84 ± 0.15 *
Female	432 ± 5	40 ± 6	9.2% ± 1.4%	32 ± 6	7.4% ± 1.4%	0.81 ± 0.20
50 - 64 Male	219 ± 3	24 ± 6	10.9% ± 2.7%	15 ± 6	7.0% ± 2.5%	0.64 ± 0.28 *
Female	76 ± 1	3 ± 1	3.8% ± 0.8%	2 ± 0	2.1% ± 0.6%	0.55 ± 0.19 *

*Indicates difference is statistically significantly different at the 0.05 level of significance.
Analysis is based on data provided to DDMHS by community mental health centers and the Department of Corrections.
Because these databases do not share unique person identifiers, Probabilistic Population Estimation was used to determine the number of individuals shared across data sets (with 95% confidence intervals).